

## **JOINT PRESS STATEMENT**

### **on the Fourth Meeting of the Joint Commission (JC) for Bilateral Cooperation between the Kingdom of Thailand and the Republic of Peru on 26 February 2016 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, Bangkok**

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His Excellency Mr. Virasakdi Futrakul, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, and His Excellency Ambassador Armando Raúl Patiño Alvístur, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Peru, jointly chaired the Fourth Meeting of the Joint Commission (JC) for Bilateral Cooperation between Thailand and Peru in Bangkok on 26 February 2016.

The Meeting covered numerous important issues of mutual interest. Recalling the meeting between the Prime Minister of Thailand and the President of the Republic of Peru in Manila in November 2015, both sides expressed satisfaction on cordial and closer bilateral relations. The Meeting acknowledged the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Thailand and Peru on 10 November 2015 as an auspicious milestone and noted the activities organized to honour and celebrate the occasion.

The delegations exchanged information and had fruitful discussions on various aspects of bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation. In particular, both delegations stressed the mutual recognition of the two countries as strategic partners, highlighting the potential to serve as hubs and gateways for trade and investment in their respective regions. The delegations confirmed their respective Governments' commitment to work toward the conclusion of the Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement between the two countries soonest in hope of enhancing bilateral trade and economic cooperation. The delegations also conferred on the negotiations of other pending bilateral agreements and the utilization of the signed agreements, including in the areas of culture, environment, customs, sericulture and narcotics control.

As both sides attach great importance to technical cooperation, the Meeting welcomed the results of the Third Technical Cooperation Meeting between the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA) and the Peruvian International Cooperation Agency (APCI) on 25 February 2016 and emphasized further collaboration on a wide range of fields, including aquaculture, mining, tourism, and SMEs cooperation. The delegations also discussed cooperation in other areas especially sustainable development under the frameworks of G77 of which Thailand is currently the president of the New York chapter, and APEC related to which Peru will host a Leaders' Meeting in November 2016 to be attended by the Thai Prime Minister.

The two sides agreed to expedite all areas of cooperation towards concrete outcomes and looked forward to the Fifth Meeting in Peru at a date that will be later decided. Prior to the JC Meeting, representatives of the Royal Thai Government and the Government of the Republic of Peru took part in a ceremony exchanging instruments of ratification and signing the procès-verbal for the Treaty on the Transfer of Offenders and Cooperation in the Enforcement of Penal Sentences between Thailand and Peru, officially entering into force the treaty between the two countries and achieving another historic and positive milestone in bilateral relations.

His Excellency Ambassador Armando Raúl Patiño Alvístur, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, also paid a courtesy call on His Excellency Mr. Don Pramudwinai, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, on 25 February 2016.